COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, *the* *10th of December 1928.* / *25th of Vrischigam 1104.*

The House met at Half-past Eleven of the Clock with the President in the Chair. Messrs. I. E. Ambooken and T. K. Nayar were absent.

Swearing in of a New Member.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon took and subscribed the oath of allegiance.

President's Opening Speech.

President.—Hon'ble Members,—This is practically, though not in name, the first meeting of the Legislative Session of this year, and the sitting of three days we had in Kanni last must be considered as more or less special to the year, having for its object the consideration of the Special Finance Committee's report. Let me extend to you all the usual cordial welcome on this occasion and invite your hearty co-operation and help in conducting the business of the Council in a dignified and useful manner.

You may all remember that we had parted last time on the day preceding the 70th Birthday of His Highness the Maharaja, and that, on the conclusion of the sitting on that day, the following resolution was unanimously passed by the House:—"*That this Council requests the Honourable the President to convey to His Highness the Maharaja the respectful, sincere and heartfelt congratulations of the Council on the happy and auspicious occasion of His Highness' 70th Birthday and the Council's earnest prayer to the All-Merciful Providence to vouchsafe to His Highness a long and prosperous life*".

It was my great privilege to communicate in all humility this resolution of the Council to His Highness immediately, and I have been commanded by His Highness to convey to the Honourable Members of the Council (*all the Members stood up*) His Highness' sincere appreciation of the heartfelt manifestations of loyalty and good wishes on the part of the representatives of the people, both non-official and official, sitting in this Council and His Highness' thanks to the Members of the Council for the same (*the Members sat down*). It is well-known to us all how magnificently that unique event, the memorable 70th Birthday of His Highness, was celebrated throughout the State. The numerous loving subjects of His Highness observed

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that specially important day as one of great rejoicing and there was spontaneous demonstration of loyalty everywhere. The one thought that was uppermost in their minds, the one devout prayer they offered to the Almighty, was that His Highness the Maharaja might be spared many more years to rule over them and to look after their interests in the same spirit of benevolence and goodwill which animated His Highness in conferring boons of far-reaching importance on that occasion. May I repeat on behalf of all assembled here that it is the sincere (*all the Members stood up*) and earnest prayer of one and all of us to the Almighty Providence to vouchsafe to His Highness a long life of happiness to rule over his subjects with infinite mercy and goodness? (*The Members sat down.*)

All our thoughts have been for the past few days on His Majesty, our beloved King-Emperor, whose health had been to us a matter of deep concern and anxiety. We are, I am glad to note, having reassuring news of improvement day after day and strength carefully maintained. It is our devout prayer (*all the Members stood up*) to the Almighty that His Majesty will soon be restored to his normal health to continue his glorious reign (*the Members sat down*).

Before concluding, I beg leave to make a reference to the departure from our midst, no more to return to this mortal world, of an illustrious son of India who honoured our State with a visit only a few months ago. The late Lala Lajpat Rai of revered memory (*all Members stood up*) was an Indian of outstanding personality whose life was one of entire self-sacrifice in the cause of the poor and the depressed and whose interest in the cause of the motherland was unrivalled. (*The Members sat down.*) As resolutions by way of condolence on his death will be moved shortly in this Council, it is not necessary to say more.

Condolence Resolution.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Was this resolution balloted along with the other resolutions?

President.—No.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—The resolution is not placed before the Members as yet. Without knowing what the resolution is, how can Hon'ble Members move amendments?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—In regard to these resolutions, no formalities are necessary.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Some Members may require to move amendments to the resolution.

President.—I am sorry for the omission.

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